


Garrison wants input for excellence award

Did you know Fort Sill won the first Army Communities of Excellence Award in the early '80s? ACOE is an Installation Management Command program where garrisons compete, similar to the Baldrige National Quality Award Program, for the title of best garrison in the Army. Competing garrisons must show that their leaders provide clear direction and guidance, that a strategic plan is in place, that meaningful measurements are in place to track progress, that customer needs are met and expectations exceeded, that the workforce is fully engaged and that systematic and effective processes are in place to accomplish the mission with limited resources. As the Fort Sill garrison is gearing up to enter the com-

petition and become one of the Army's top garrisons, I have established a performance improvement council, with a key member from each of the garrison directorates and some of the garrison support offices. The PIC evaluates how our garrison is doing by interviewing randomly selected leaders, supervisors and non-supervisory employees. We also use a garrisonwide organizational self-assessment - an IMCOM initiated workforce survey that is sent out annually. Both, the interviews and the survey, help the team identify our strengths and our opportunities for improvement. Some of the opportunities identified in last year's interviews and OSA were in the areas of workforce engagement,



Did you know?

By Col. Raymond Lacey
Fort Sill Garrison commander

workforce development and customer focus. Based on those findings and best practices the PIC found in other award winning garrisons, the team developed a number of recommendations to turn those opportunities for improvement into strengths. To improve our garrison in those areas I have recently established the following garrison-wide best practices:

- An annual workforce engagement survey;
- An exit survey for departing employees;
- A monthly brown bag lunch for employees where they can meet with me to directly discuss issues or concerns in their work areas;
- An organizational life fitness officer for each directorate;
- The inclusion of customer satisfaction into performance standards for those supervisors that are in

charge of fostering a climate of customer focus;

- Continuity books for all key personnel;
- Cross training within all directorates and support offices garrison-wide; and
- A garrison commander hotline.

The garrison commander hotline is a direct e-mail to me, to be used by Soldiers, families and employees for issues or concerns that cannot be resolved through conventional channels such as chain of command, ICE, etc. If you are on the Fort Sill network you will find TELL THE GARRISON COMMANDER in your Outlook global directory. All others can use the link on the Fort Sill garrison website. More information about all of these new programs can be found on the Fort Sill Garrison Web site, under the Best Practices tab. The performance improvement council interviews and the organizational self-assessment are valuable tools that help identify the garrison's strong points and areas for improvement. With this year's OSA on the horizon, I encourage everyone to participate, provide honest feedback and help us, as a garrison, become the best we can be.

To reach me

To send questions or comments to me, please e-mail fscoms@conus.army.mil or you can mail your comments to Commander, USAG-Fort Sill, 462 Hamilton Road, Suite 120, Fort Sill, OK 73503. Thanks and have a great Fort Sill day.

DSOY competition more than obstacle course

By Carroll Kim
TRADOC Public Affairs
FORT EUSTIS, Va. — The Drill Sergeant of the Year competition has brought the Army's top drill sergeants together to contend for the active and Reserve title for decades, but this year marked the first time they would be evaluated by drill sergeant leaders. Five drill sergeant leaders, selected by Command Sgt. Maj. Teresa King, Drill Sergeant School commandant, came to the Army-level competition to grade the eight com-

peting drill sergeants on warrior tasks and battle drills. "The [competitors] are doing a good job," said Sgt. 1st Class Darlene Sanders. "It's mentally tough, as well as physically. You can tell that the competition is doing what it's meant to do." "There really are eight winners," said Sgt. 1st Class Racheen Douglas. "They're exhausted and nobody quit." Drill sergeant leaders teach drill sergeants how to instruct new recruits at the Drill Sergeant School

at Fort Jackson, S.C. There are currently 73 drill sergeant leaders in the Army. To become a drill sergeant leader, a noncommissioned officer must complete one year as a drill sergeant at a basic training unit, meet prerequisites, receive recommendation, and interview with the commandant of the Drill Sergeant School. "If you're a top-notch drill sergeant, you should consider it. We need those expert drill sergeant leaders to get those NCOs ready to

go and put out the best product," said Sgt. 1st Class John McHaney. A part of instructing drill sergeants, drill sergeant leaders also have a unique look at the new changes to the basic combat training program of instruction, which has undergone a complete overhaul affecting combatives, basic rifle marksmanship, culture training and physical training, to name a few. These changes were made under the supervision of Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, deputy commanding general for Initial Military Training.

However, the changes coupled with good leadership work to mold and teach a Soldier how to be effective in combat. "We're actually going back to the basics," said Sgt. 1st Class Gabriel Lopez. "We're putting out a better, more well-rounded drill sergeant. It's the same standard across the board." "It's really exciting that the Army sees how training has been done and compare it to the mission at hand," added Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Johnson. "I love the changes."

Sill shorts

Recycle orientation
The public is invited to a recycle orientation the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the recycle center conference room, 3330 Sheridan Road. For more information, call 442-5712.

DA photos
Appointments must be made for all Department of the Army official photos using the Visual Information Ordering Online Systems at <https://www.vios-west.army.mil> for CAC users or

Personnel
The military personnel division is open all training holidays and closed all federal holidays. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except for the ID card section which is by appointment only Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday is walk-in day. For more information, call 442-5010.

Behavioral health
The Behavioral Health Science Clinic is at 2442 Crane Road. Walk-in and sick call hours are Mondays through Fridays from 8-11:30 a.m.

Road closure
Lubberman Road in the 300 area is closed permanently from Corral Road to Knox Road to construct the new artillery park. For more information, call 442-5746.

www.vios-akowest.army.mil for non-CAC holders, who have an AKO account. No walk-ins are accepted. For more information, call 442-8127.

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Patron saint




Photo By Marie Barberea

A new Saint Barbara statue is dedicated to 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery Regiment in Snow Hall, June 25. St. Barbara is known as the patron saint of artillerymen for her protection against lightning and thunder. A lot of time and effort went into the work of art and was dedicated to the men and women of the artillery branch of the United States Army and to the honored memory of D.B. Ellison and retired 1st Sgt. Thomas J. Topburner, presented by the 30th Field Artillery Regiment Association. Jon Fizzell, 1st-30th FA, was the first to receive the statue and said St. Barbara was sculpted barefoot because that is how all martyrs are portrayed. He added it is good luck to rub her foot. Brig. Gen. Ross Ridge, chief of field artillery, said there was no better location to display the statue than in Snow Hall as it is the flagship building on Fort Sill for the field artillery and the air defense artillery school.

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